

Q.3. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

(5 x 4 = 20)

Knowledge is acquired when we succeed in fitting a new experience in the system of concepts based upon our old experiences. Understanding comes when we liberate ourselves from the old and so make possible a direct, unmediated contact with the new, the mystery, moment by moment, of our existence. The new is the given on every level of experience – given perceptions, given emotions and thoughts, given states of unstructured awareness, given relationships with things and persons. The old is our home-made system of ideas and word patterns. It is the stock of finished articles fabricated out of the given mystery by memory and analytical reasoning, by habit and automatic associations of accepted notions. Knowledge is primarily a knowledge of these finished articles. Understanding is primarily direct awareness of the raw material.

Knowledge is always in terms of concepts and can be passed on by means of words or other symbols. Understanding is not conceptual and therefore cannot be passed on. It is an immediate experience, and immediate experience can only be talked about (very inadequately), never shared. Nobody can actually feel another's pain or grief, another's love or joy, or hunger. And similarly no body can experience another's understanding of a given event or situation. There can, of course, be knowledge of such an understanding, and this knowledge may be passed on in speech or writing, or by means of other symbols. Such communicable knowledge is useful as a reminder that there have been specific understandings in the past, and that understanding is at all times possible. But we must always remember that knowledge of understanding is not the same thing as the understanding which is the raw material of that knowledge. It is as different from understanding as the doctor's prescription for pencitin is different from penicillin.

Questions:

- (i) How is knowledge different from understanding?
- (ii) Explain why understanding cannot be passed on.
- (iii) Is the knowledge of understanding possible? If it is, how may it be passed on?
- (iv) How does the author explain that knowledge of understanding is not the same thing as the understanding?
- (v) How far do you agree with the author in his definitions of knowledge and understanding? Give reasons for your answer.

⇒ Comprehension - CSS (2022)

(i)

Knowledge and Understanding are based on different concepts. The former refers to the storage of ideas in our memory, while the latter refers to the raw ideas - in ^{their} ~~its~~ very original form. In other words, knowledge is the processed ideas or notions of understanding that comes after the analysis of right or wrong, acceptable or unacceptable. However, Understanding is premised on the new concept, and has not passed through the stage of analysis ~~which~~ makes it non-transferable. Hence, knowledge having passed through all these stages can be shared, and is transferable.

(ii)

Understanding, unlike knowledge, is not acquired and is based on fresh ideas. The novelty of idea, leaving little time to process and to transfer it further, circumscribes its ability of sharing. What makes a trait to

be transferable is its innate conceptual nature, experiencing the difference between right and wrong, which, therefore, are lacked in understanding.

(iii)

Avoid cutting.

The distinct quality of knowledge is that it can be transferred further through words or symbols, while understanding of a particular concept is a unique idea as it varies from person to person. However, this knowledge of understanding can be possible when this is shared in the form of writing, symbols, or speech. However, this knowledge of understanding can only be passed if it is first, being processed in memory, and then analyzed thereafter to be passed on further.

(iv)

Understanding and knowledge of understanding are as different, as a doctor's prescription is different for penicillin and penicillin. Understanding is the innate ability and personal intelligence of a person regarding any situation, which is purely raw and new. This Due to this,

Date: / / 20

Understanding can be sporadically discussed but not shared as it lacks proper analysis. Once it is passed through the stage of analysis, then it becomes knowledge of understanding that makes it capable to be shared and discussed further. Hence, the processing ability and conversion into a conceptual analysis makes it different from understanding.

(V)

The author expounds two distinct notions i.e. knowledge and understanding and draws a line of difference between them. In my opinion, the author has rightly distinguished as understanding is premised on the concept of raw material, while knowledge is the outcome of these ideas after its co-existence with the prior idea in already existing memory. It is right to establish that understanding of a particular situation may vary from person to person based on life-experiences, intelligence, and individual circumstances. The understanding of a particular event makes its place with the existing thoughts, which

Date: / / 20

then processed further to establish the difference between the right and wrong. In the similar way, knowledge is acquired when the new ideas as well as old ideas merge and develop a particular analysis which, thereby, makes it transferable in various forms.

Answers are too long, hence, unnecessary information has been added.